



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CALFED ANNOUNCES \$25.5 MILLION IN
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS**

SACRAMENTO—The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is awarding over \$25 million in funding for 62 ecosystem restoration programs and projects in the Bay-Delta watershed system. Funding comes from the federal Bay-Delta Act, state Proposition 204 and federal watershed funding.

Over three-fourths of the funding is devoted to project implementation, such as the removal of Clough Dam on Mill Creek; habitat conservation and restoration in the Delta and Suisun Marsh; and a city of Sacramento screening project. The remainder of the funds will go to education, monitoring, research and planning. These projects include the development of a local restoration strategy for the Yolo Bypass; an education program to help stop the spread of water hyacinths; and programs to increase biological understanding of the green sturgeon.

Earlier this year, CALFED identified nine target areas for restoration funding to achieve an appropriate balance of projects. CALFED received 180 proposals requesting over \$160 million in funding, addressing the areas of:

- Fish passage assessment
- Fish passage and related screen improvements
- Floodplain management and habitat restoration
- Sediment management
- Fish harvest management tools
- Species life history studies
- Local watershed stewardship
- Environmental education
- Small screen evaluations and alternatives.

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CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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Proposals were reviewed and evaluated in a two-step process by Technical Review Panels (TRPs) and the Integration Panel, all composed of state, federal and non-agency representatives. The TRPs first reviewed the proposals and submitted their recommendations to the Integration Panel, which checked for duplication, conflicts and synergy among the various topic areas. The Integration Panel also was charged with ensuring the overall integrity of the technical review process. The Ecosystem Roundtable, Bay-Delta Advisory Council, CALFED Management Team and Policy Group then reviewed the recommendations. The Secretary of the California Resources Agency and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior made the final decision.

Ongoing restoration work, begun under the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord, provides important environmental benefits in the Bay-Delta estuary while a comprehensive solution to problems in the Bay-Delta system is developed. The projects also provide valuable benefits for levee system integrity, water quality and water supply reliability. To date, over \$130 million in state, federal and stakeholder funds and cost-sharing agreements have been awarded.

President Clinton recently approved \$75 million for CALFED ecosystem restoration projects in 1999. The next request for proposals is expected to be announced early next year.

Additional information about the CALFED Program and the Ecosystem Restoration Projects can be found on the CALFED Web page, <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

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ATTACHED is a list of projects selected for funding.